

Dear Colleagues,

The first three tracks were measured on May 6, May 13 and May 15. Data collected so far by the AERONET sites and handheld sun photometers appears to be exceptional.

Optical depths are typically above 0.5 and mostly cloud free conditions allow for reliable radiative and microphysical retrievals. We have measured altitude, N-S and E-W gradients under coarse and fine mode aerosols regimes. The drum sampler appears to be working flawlessly. The filter sampler has collected considerable data but the pump issues require close monitoring. A few power outages have been noted. The first foreign measurement team of Tom Eck and Wayne Newcomb is leaving to be replaced by David Giles and Carlo Wang. Rich Kleidman and Lorraine Remer joined in time to cover two of three tracks. Harish Vishwakarma, Sumit Mishra, Daya Shankar and the graduate student teams that are working with Wayne and Tom have demonstrated great resourcefulness and energy to deal with the great off track distances and to keep the AERONET stations operating in the blistering heat. The undergraduate microtops team (Pawen Kumar, Amit, Vikash, Anujk, Ravi, Vikas, Amber, hope I didn't leave anyone out) has shown great dedication to measurements at the on track sites as well as the on Kanpur spatial distribution study coordinated by Prof. Tripathi and Tom Eck. Most data set processing is up to date and can be viewed on the TIGERZ website:

(<http://tigerz.gsfc.nasa.gov/>). The lidar data collected was of short duration but very interesting-- thanks to Leosphere and Laurent Sauvage for their considerable efforts. A huge thanks to Joel for organizing the details of site selection and following the organizational issues, Mikhail for spearheading the foreign contingent and initially setting the system up and Dave Giles for organizing the webpage and keeping it up to date. This effort certainly could not have gotten off the ground had Sachi and Tarun not spent many hours dealing with logistics, importation, permissions and gone to great lengths to accommodate our needs as well as teaching and looking after their programs.

It is a great pleasure and credit to their goals that after all the details are addressed their focus is the science. We've all profited from science discussions with Sachi and Tarun.

This has been an exceptional collaboration for us all with much more to come when the CTCZ aircraft segment begins and we put the AERONET stations into cloud mode as the monsoon approaches in late June. Thanks also to our collaborators in Vishakhapatnam, ISRO, and IITM in Pune and Delhi and Gandhi College and certainly thanks to the many folks stateside and abroad for their generous support and interest.

Cheers,

brent